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SENATE BILL 2400

By Haun

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3; Title 4; Title 54; Title 55; Title 65 and Title 67.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Cave Salamander was named the official state amphibian by Public Chapter 367 of the 99th General Assembly in 1995; and

WHEREAS, the Salamander, striking in appearance, has three red external gills, a flat head and small, undeveloped eyes; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Cave Salamander, a troglodytic creature, is often found in, or near, limestone caves containing water; and

WHEREAS, although the Tennessee Cave Salamander's cousins, the Northern Spring Salamander and the West Virginia Spring Salamander, can be found from Quebec to Alabama, our Salamander calls central and southeast Tennessee home; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Cave Salamander is pretty darn cute for a slimy cave dwelling creature; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() Tennessee Cave Salamander;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of the State of Tennessee, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in §55-4-203, shall be issued a Tennessee Cave Salamander new specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by §55-4-210(c).

(b) The new specialty earmarked license plates provided for in this section shall contain a likeness of the Tennessee Cave Salamander, shall include the salamander's scientific name "Cyrinophilu Palleucus" and shall be designed in consultation with Mr. Jim Allen Beasley, a friend of the Tennessee Cave Salamander.

(c) The funds produced from the sale of such new specialty earmarked license plates shall be deposited in the wildlife resources fund established pursuant to §70-1-401, to be used exclusively for management, protection, propagation and conservation of fish and wildlife species, including the Tennessee Cave Salamander, and the protection and enhancement of such species' habitats.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002, the public welfare requiring it.